

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 200140
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011

DRAFTED BY IO/UNA:BJSHARP
APPROVED BY IO/UNA:JFTEFFT
S/S-O:RSNIDER

-----004106 082155Z /64

O 082049Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 9329

S E C R E T STATE 200140

EXDIS FOR AMB YOUNG FROM UNA

FOL RPT BRAZZAVILLE 1095 ACTION SECSTATE INFO KINSHASA
NDJAMENA PARIS 8 AUG 78 QUOTE

S E C R E T BRAZZAVILLE 1095

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, CF, CG, AO, FR,CD, UR, CU
SUBJECT: YHOMBY-OPANGO COMMENTS ON ANGOLA/ZAIRE RELATIONS:
CHAD; SHABA

REF: BRAZZAVILLE 1092 NOTAL

1. DURING MEETING WITH CHARGE AUGUST 7 (REFTEL), PRESIDENT
YHOMBY-OPANGO SAID THAT WHILE HE HAD BEEN PLEASED WITH HIS
ABILITY TO GET ZAIRE AND ANGOLA TOGETHER, HE WAS WORRIED
NOW ABOUT THE WAY THINGS WERE GOING. HE IS SENDING MILITARY
COMMITTEE MEMBER NGOLLO, WHO PRESIDED AT MEDIATION SESSIONS
HERE, TO LUANDA, AUGUST 10, TO ENCOURAGE ANGOLANS TO
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FOLLOW THROUGH ON THEIR COMMITMENTS AND NOT TO REOPEN
QUARRELS OVER MEMBERSHIP OF VERIFICATION COMMITTEE
(BRAZZAVILLE 1085 NOTAL). ADDITIONALLY, HE HAD ASKED
CONGOLESE AMBASSADOR IN KINSHASA TO CALL ON MOBUTU TO SAY
THAT RUMORED NOMINATION OF ZAIRE SECURITY CHIEF SETI AS
AMBASSADOR TO ANGOLA WOULD BE A "GRAVE ERROR." SETI'S
OPTIC WAS NOT APPROPRIATE FOR INCUMBENT OF SUCH A

DELICATE POSITION, AND HE WOULD SUGGEST THROUGH HIS AMBASSADOR ALTERNATIVES OF LOMPONDA OF LENGEMA. NOR WAS YHOMBY PLEASED WITH CREDENTIALS OF ZAIRE'S CHARGE IN LUANDA (ALSO BRAZZAVILLE 1085 NOTAL).

2. YHOMBY THEN TURNED TO QUESTION OF CABINDA. HE SAID THAT HE WAS WAITING FOR ANGOLA TO BECOME STRONGER PRIOR TO GOING TO NETO, AND POINTING OUT TO HIM THAT CONGO HAD BEEN VERY HELPFUL TO MPLA BEFORE AND AFTER INDEPENDENCE, AND THAT PARTICULARLY IN IVEW OF NUMBER OF CONGOLESE IN CABINDA AND ITS SEPARATE GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION, A "POLITICAL SOLUTION" SHOULD BE FOUND CONCERNING STATUS OF ENCLAVE. HE ADDED THAT ANGOLANS ARE CLEARLY NOT IN CONTROL OF THE TERRITORY. BEYOND CABINDA TOWN, WHERE CUBANS ARE PROTECTING GULF. FURTHER, SAID YHOMBY, ANGOLANS HAVE ENOUGH PROBLEMS ALREADY WITHOUT CABINDA. THIS WAS FIRST TIME YHOMBY HAD DISCUSSED THIS ASPECT OF CABINDA WITH CHARGE, AND WE WERE PARTICULARLY STRUCK BY HIS FRANKNESS CONCERNING CONGOLESE TERRITORIAL INTERESTS IN CABINDA. CHARGE MADE NO COMMENT.

3. DRAWING ON THIS, YHOMBY SAID THAT CHAD IS ANOTHER AREA WHERE A "POLITICAL SOLUTION" IS NEEDED, RATHER THAN A MILITARY ONE. HE NOTED THAT HE HAD TOLD DEPARTING FRENCH AMBASSADOR DUFOURCQ EARLIER THAT THE
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FRENCH CANNOT EXPECT TO HAVE THEIR TROOPS STAY FOREVER IN A COUNTRY, ESPECIALLY TO REGULATE A PROBLEM WHICH IS NOT MILITARY AT ALL. YHOMBY PROPOSED, OVERLY SIMPLISTICALLY, THAT PROBLEM COULD BE REGULATED FAIRLY EASILY WERE CHAD'S LEADERSHIP TO CHANGE TO MUFTI.

4. CONTINUING ON THIS DISCUSSION OF TROOPS, YHOMBY TURNED TO QUESTION OF "PAN-AFRICAN PEACE FORCE." HE TOLD CHARGE AGAIN VERY FRANKLY, THAT HIS GREATEST FEAR ABOUT THE FRENCH PRESENCE IN SHABA HAD BEEN THAT "SOCIALIST" COMRADES" WOULD ENCOURAGE CONGOLESE TO INVITE A COUNTER-VAILING FORCE TO CONGO, A POSSIBILITY WHICH YHOMBY SAID HE CLEARLY DID NOT WANT (BRAZZAVILLE 752 NOTAL). HE VOLUNTEERED THAT "OTHERS" IN THE MILITARY COMMITTEE, HOWEVER, HAD THOUGHT IT WAS A GOOD IDEA, AND HE HAD HAD TO BUCK A FAIR AMOUNT OF PRESSURE. BUT, HE COMMENTED, "WHO NEEDS 10 THOUSAND SOVIETS AND 40 THOUSAND CUBANS RUNNING AROUND THE CONGO?"
KATZEN

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, CABINDA, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS, POLITICAL SITUATION, INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE200140
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: BJSHARP
Enclosure: REPEATS 78 BRAZZAVILLE 1095
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780324-0985
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780886/aaaacuhb.tel
Line Count: 115
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9e056e66-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 BRAZZAVILLE 1092
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1801691
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: YHOMBY-OPANGO COMMENTS ON ANGOLA/ZAIRE RELATIONS: CHAD; SHABA
TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, MARR, CF, CG, AO, FR, CD, UR, CU, (YHOMB-OPANGO, JOACHIM)
To: USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9e056e66-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014